

A CHAPTER OF GOSPEL.

In a charming book, recently published in England under the title of "Charles Young and his Times," we find a great number of anecdotes and reminiscences of persons who have long since passed away, but whose names never fail to awaken interest and curiosity. We make a few extracts, premising that Young was in his time an actor of great celebrity.

Great writers in their own houses, like prophets among their own people, proverbially lack much of the consideration they find abroad. Mrs. Douglas Jerrold always wondered what it was people found in her husband's jokes to laugh at. It is said that many years had passed over the head of Burns' son before the young man knew that his father was famous as a poet. It is certain that Walter Scott's eldest son had arrived at more than manhood before he had the curiosity to read one of his sires' novels. He thought little of it when he read it. This want of appreciation the son derived from his mother. Once, when Young, the actor, was admiring the fashion of the ceiling in Scott's drawing-room at Abbotsford, Lady Scott exclaimed, in her droll Guinean accent, "Ah! Mr. Young, you may look up at the bosses in the ceiling as long as you like, but you must not look down at my poor carpet, for I am ashamed of it. I must get Scott to write some more of his nonsense books and buy me a new one!" To those who remember the charm of Young's musical voice, Lady Dacre's lines on his reciting "Tam o' Shanter" to the other guests at Abbotsford will present themselves without any thought of differing from their conclusion, thus neatly put:—

"And Tam o' Shanter roaring fou,
By these corners, as he sang,
The rustic bard would own a true,
He scanted could tell
Wha' twas the litter picture drew,
Thou or himself!"

It is a curious fact that Scott, harmonious poet as he was, had no ear for music, unless it were that of a ballad, and he would repeat that horribly out of tune. He was, however, in tune with all humanity; as much so with a king as with the humblest of his subjects. When he went on board the royal yacht, which had arrived near Leith, with George IV, amid such rain as only falls in Scotland, Scott, in an off-hand yet respectful way, told the king that the weather reminded him of the stormy day of his own arrival in the Western Highlands—weather which so disgusted the landlord of the inn, who was used to the very worst, that he apologized for it. "Gude guide us! this is just awfu!" Siccan a down-pour, was ever the like! I really beg your pardon! I'm sure it's nae fau o' mine. I canna think how it should happen to rain this way just as you o' a men! the world should come to see us! It looks amaisht personal! I can only say, for my part, I'm just ashamed o' the weather!" Having thus spoken to the king, Scott added, "I do not know, sire, that I can improve upon the language of the honest innkeeper. I canna think how it should rain this way just as you o' a men! of all men, the king should have condescended to come and see us. I can only say, in the name of my countrymen, I'm just ashamed o' the weather!" It was at Scott's petition that the royal landing was deferred till the next day, which brought all the sunshine that was considered necessary for the occasion.

Poor old George III can not be said at any time to have been "every inch a king." He was certainly not, by nature, a cruel man. Yet he betrayed something akin to cruelty when, on the night of the Lord George Gordon riots, an officer who had been actively employed in suppressing the rioters waited on the king to make his report. George III hurried forward to meet him, crying out with screaming iteration, "Well! well! well! I hope you peppered them well! peppered them well! peppered them well!" There may, however, have been nothing more in this than there was in Wellington's injunction to his officers on the day that London was threatened with a Chartist revolution, "Remember, gentlemen, there must be no little war!" In such cases humanity to revolutionists is lack of mercy to the friends of order.

It is well known that George III had an insuperable aversion to Dr. John Willis, who had attended him when the king was laid under his early intermittent attacks of insanity. Willis was induced to take temporary charge of the king, on Pitt's promise to make him a baronet and give him a pension of £1500 a year—pleasant things which never came to pass. Queen Charlotte hated Willis even more than the king did. The physician earned that guerdon by putting George III in a strait-waistcoat whenever he thought the royal violence required it. The doctor took this step on his own responsibility. The Queen never forgave him, and the King, as long as he had memory, never forgot it. In 1811, when the fatal relapse occurred, brought on, Willis thought, by Pitt's persistent pressure of the Roman Catholic claims on the King's mind, the Chancellor and the Prince of Wales had some difficulty in inducing the doctor to take charge of the sovereign. When Willis entered that part of Windsor Castle which was inhabited by the king he heard the monarch humming a favorite song in his room. A moment after George III crossed the threshold on the landing-place. He was in Windsor uniform, as to his coat, blue with scarlet cuffs and collar, a star on the breast. A waistcoat of buff chamois leather, buckskin breeches and top-boots, with the familiar three-cornered hat, completed the costume. He came forth as a bridegroom from his chamber, full of hope and joy, like Cymon, "whistling as he went for want of thought," and switching his boot with his whip as he went. Willis, as he stepped, as if on Willis, he reeled back, as if he had been shot. He shrieked out the hated name, called on God, and fell to the ground. It was long before the unhappy sovereign could be calmed. In his own room the king wept like a child. Every now and then he broke into heart-rending exclamations of "What can I do without doing wrong? They forget my coronation oath; but I don't! Oh, my oath! my oath! my oath!" The king's excitement on seeing Willis was partly caused by his remembering the queen's promise that Willis should never be called in again in case of the king's illness. Willis on that occasion consented to stay with the king after a fearful scene had taken place with the queen, her doctors, and council. When Mr. Julian Young knew Willis, from whom he had the above details, the doctor was above eighty years of age, upright and active. He was still a mighty hunter; and, unless Mr. Young was misinformed, on the very day before his death he shot two or three brace of snipes in the morning, and danced at the Lincoln ball at night. Willis did not reach his hundredth year, as Dr. Routh, of Magdalen College, Oxford, did. Just before the death of the latter Lord Campbell visited and had a long conversation with him. At parting the centenary calmly remarked, "I hope it will not be many years before we meet again." "Did he think," said Lord Campbell afterward, "that he and I were going to live forever?"

Monarchs, who have to submit to many tyrannies by which monarchs alone can suffer, must have an especial dread of loves and presentations. The monarchy must be killing; at the very best, irritating. George IV had the stately dreariness very much relieved. On one occasion, when a nervous gentleman was bowing and passing before him, a lord in waiting kindly whispered to him, "Kiss hands!" The nervous gentleman accordingly moved on to the door, turned round, and there kissed his hands adroitly to the king by way of kindly farewell. George IV laughed almost as heartily as his brother, King William, did at an unlucky alderman who was at court on the only day Mr. Julian Young ever felt himself constrained to go into the royal presence. The alderman's dress sword got between his legs as he was backing from that presence, whereby he was tripped up and fell backward on the floor. King William cared not a fig for dignity. He remarked with great glee to those who stood near, "By Jove! that fellow has out a crab!" and the kingly laughter was, as it were, poured point-blank into the floundering alderman. This was not encouraging to Mr. Young, who had to follow. As newly-appointed royal chaplain in Hampton Court Palace Chapel, King William had expressed a wish to see him at a levee, and obedience was a duty. The chaplain had been told by Sir Horace Seymour that he had nothing to do but follow the example of the gentleman who might happen to be before him. The principal directions to the neophyte were, "Bow very low, and do not turn your back on the king." The instant the chaplain had kissed the king's hand, however, he turned his back upon his sovereign, and hurried off. Sir Horace Seymour afterwards consoled him for this breach of etiquette by stating that a Sorey baronet, who had followed him made a wider breach in court observance. The unlucky baronet, seeing the royal hand outstretched, instead of reverently putting his lips to it, caught hold of it and wrung it heartily. The king, who loved a joke, probably enjoyed levees, the usual monotony of which was relieved by such screaming-farce incidents as these.

These royal brothers, sons of George III, were remarkably outspoken. They were not witty themselves, but they were now and then the cause of wit in others. It must have been the Duke of Cumberland (on listening to Mr. Nightingale's story of having been run away with when driving, and that at a critical moment he jumped out of the carriage) blandly exclaimed, "Fool! fool!" "Now," said Nightingale, on telling the incident to Horace Smith, "it's all very well for him to call me a fool; but I can't conceive why he should. Can you?" "No," rejoined Horace, "I can't, because he could not suppose you ignorant of the fact!"

Among the most unhappy lords of themselves who lived in a past generation, there was not one who might have been so happy, had he pleased, as the author of "Vathek." It is very well said of Beckford that there has seldom existed a man who, inheriting so much, did so little for his fellow-creatures. There was a grim humor in some of his actions. In illustration of this we may state that when Beckford was living in gorgeous seclusion at Fonthill, two gentlemen, who were the more curious to spy into the glories of the place because strangers were forbidden, climbed the park walls at dusk, and on alighting within the prohibited inclosure found themselves in presence of the lord of the place. Beckford awoke them by his proud condescension. He politely dragged them through all the splendors of his palace, and then, with cruel courtesy, made them dine with him. When the night advanced he took his involuntary guests into the park, bidding them adieu with the remark that, as they found their way in, they might find their way out. It was as bad as bandaging a man's eyes on Salisbury Plain, and bidding him find his way to Bath. At sunrise the weary guests, who had pursued a fruitless voyage of discovery all night, were guided to a point of egress, and they never thought of calling on their host again.

Ready wit in women (now passed away), wit, too, combined with courage, is by no means rare. During the ruro-diaabolical reign of "Swing," that incarnation of ruffianism, in the person of the most hideous blackguard in the district, with a mob of thieves and mad dogs at his back, attacked Field, the old family residence of two elderly maiden ladies named Penruddock. When the mob were on the point of resorting to extreme violence, Miss Betty Penruddock expressed her astonishment to the ugly leader of the band that "such a good-looking man as he should be captain of such an ill-favored band of robbers. Never again will I trust to good looks!" cried the old lady, whose flattery so touched the vanity of "Swing" that he prevailed on his followers to desist. "Only give us some beer," he said, "and we won't touch a hair of your head!" "You can't," retorted the plucky old lady, "for I wear a wig!" On the other hand, the vanity of young ladies was once effectually checked at Hampton Court Chapel. A youthful beauty once fainted, and the handsome Sir Horace Seymour carried her out. On successive Sundays successive youthful beauties fainted, and the handsome Sir Horace carried them successively out, till he grew tired of bearing such sweet burdens. A report that in future all swooning nymphs would be carried out of the chapel by the dustman cured the epidemic.

Much has been said of the ladies of Llangollen, Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Ponsonby. We question if in all that has been written of those pseudo-recluses they have been half so well hit off as by Mrs. Morris, a lodging-house keeper in the neighborhood. "I must say, Sir, after all," observed Mrs. Morris, "they were very charitable and cantankerous. They did a deal of good, and never forgave an injury!" There is something of the ring of Mrs. Poyser in this pithily rendered judgment. Quite as sharp a passage turns up in the person of an eccentric toll-keeper, Old Jeffreys, who was nearly destitute of mental training, and whom Mr. Julian Young was anxious to draw to church service. The old man was ready for him. "Yes, sir, it be a pity, ha'n't it? We pike-keepers, and shepherds, and carters, and monthly nusses has got souls as well as them that goes to church and chapel. But what can us do? 'Why, I says, says I, to the last person as preached to me, 'don't cater in sayment of other about doing our duty in that state of life in which we be.' So, after all, when I be taking toll o' Sundays, I'm not far wrong, am I?" The rector proposed to find a paid substitute for him while he attended church. Jeffreys was ready with his reply. "That 'ud never do, sir," he said. "What! leave my post to a stranger? What would master say to me if he heard on't?" Mr. Julian Young, pointing with pleasure to a Bible on old Jeffreys' shelf, expressed a hope that he often read it. "Can't say how I do, sir," was the candid rejoinder, "I allus gets so porous over it!" When the rector alluded to a certain wench as "disreputable," Jeffreys protested in the very spirit of civility, "Don't do that! Do I I do it! I allus praises her. Charity hides a deal o' sin, master! sin't that Scripture? If it were, am I to be lectured at for sticking up and

saying a good word for she?" When it was urged that this light-o'-love queen ought to be married, Samaritan Jeffreys stepped in with his sympathetic balsam. "Poor thing!" he exclaimed, "she ain't no turn to it!" The apology was worthy of his Uncle Toby.

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